

REMARKS

1. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, and 12 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed limitations included therein. More specifically, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to specify that the electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver is independent of an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode, which is fully supported by Fig.5 and pertinent description in the specification of applicant's disclosure; in addition, the term "WSR channel" in claims 8, 10, and 12 has been amended to read "electrical channel". As no new matter is introduced, acceptance of above-identified claim amendments is respectfully requested.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gushima et al. (US 2001/0038586) in view of Kodama (US 5606468).

Response:

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver is independent of an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode, which implies that the electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver does not include an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode. The applicant therefore asserts that the claimed limitation "the optical drive controller testing timing characteristics of an electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver" is neither taught nor suggested by the combined teaching of Gushima and Kodama.

With respect to Gushima's teachings, Gushima discloses that the propagation delay time of the propagation path, including the laser driver (104), the laser diode

(102), the photodetector (107) and the signal processor (108), and the setting time of the sampler (109) are measured by a device shown in Gushima Fig.4 (paragraph [0064]), and the measurement unit of response time (601) shown in Gushima Fig.4 is implemented to measure the sum of the propagation delay time and the setting time (paragraphs [0083] and [0084]). Therefore, the signal path from the laser driver (104) toward the sampler (109) is tested to measure the response characteristic thereof. In other words, Gushima teaches testing a feedback path between a laser diode driver and an optical drive controller having the measurement unit of response time (601) and test pulse generator (602) integrated therein as taught by Kodama's teachings, where the electrical path between the laser driver (104) and the laser diode (102) must be included in the tested path to realize the desired response characteristic measurement.

However, applicant's claim 1 defines that the optical drive controller tests timing characteristics of an electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver, where the electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver is **independent of** an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode. In other words, as clearly shown in Fig.5 of applicant's disclosure, the electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode is excluded from the claimed electrical channel tested by the optical drive controller. This claimed feature is different from Gushima's timing characteristics measurement applied to the feedback path mentioned above, and is therefore neither taught nor suggested by Gushima in view of Kodama.

In view of above reasons, the applicant asserts that claim 1 should be found allowable over the combined teaching of Gushima and Kodama. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7

Claims 2-7 are dependent upon claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is found allowable.

Claim 8

Similarly, claim 8 has been amended to specify that the electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver is independent of an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode. In light of above arguments of claim 1, the applicant therefore asserts that the claimed limitation "the optical drive controller testing timing characteristics of the electrical channel by outputting timing test signals over the electrical channel" as recited in claim 8 is neither taught nor suggested by the combined teaching of Gushima and Kodama. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-13

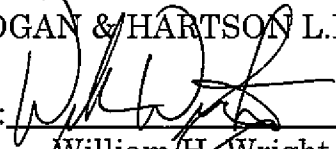
Claims 9-13 are dependent upon claim 8, and should be allowed if claim 8 is found allowable.

Based on the above remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that all of the rejections set forth in the Office action dated 01/24/2008 have been overcome and all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned applicant representative at the number indicated below.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 11, 2008

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